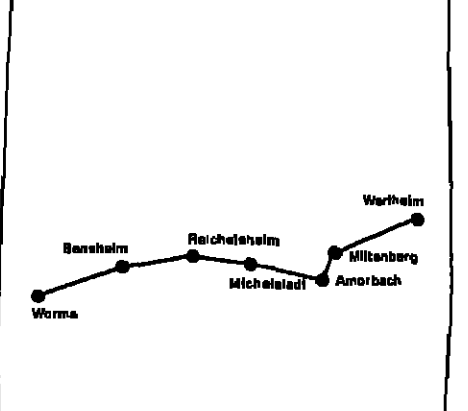
Routes to tour in Germany





The Nibelungen Route

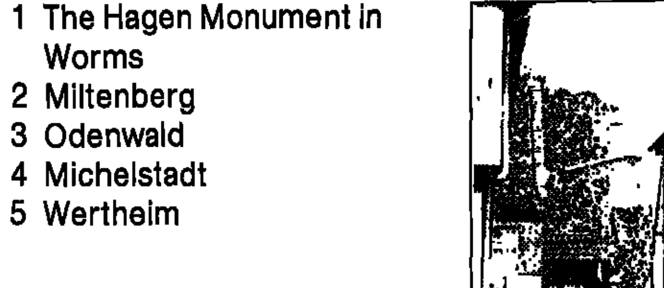




German roads will get you there – to the Odenwald woods, for instance, where events in the Nibelungen saga, the mediaeval German heroic epic, are said to have taken place. Sagas may have little basis in reality, but these woods about 30 miles south of Frankfurt could well have witnessed gaiety and tragedy in days gone by. In Worms, on the left bank of the Rhine, people lived 5,000 years ago. From the 5th century AD the kings of Burgundy held court there, going hunting in the Odenwald.

With a little imagination you can feel yourself taken back into the past and its tales and exploits. Drive from Wertheim on the Main via Miltenberg and Amorbach to Michelstadt, with its 15th century half-timbered *Rathaus*. Cross the Rhine after Bensheim and take a look at the 11th to 12th century Romanesque basilica in Worms.

Visit Germany and let the Nibelungen Route be your guide.



1 The Hagen Monument in Worms
2 Miltenberg
3 Odenwald
4 Michelstadt
5 Wertheim

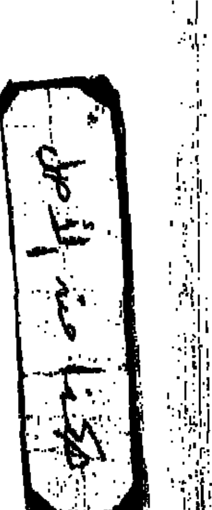




DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS EV
Beethovenstrasse 69, D-6000 Frankfurt/M.







The German Tribune

Hamburg, 31 May 1987
Twenty-sixth year - No. 1275 - By air

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Varied response to Bonn's triple-zero option

DIE WELT

Chancellor Kohl's disarmament proposals have met with a varied response. His nine-point statement is cautious but it demands the inclusion in Geneva agreements of missiles with a range of between 0 and 500 kilometres.

In other words, he has come up with a triple zero option. It would mean no more land-based US or Soviet nuclear armament (missiles or artillery shells) west of the Soviet border.

Europe would be denuclearised (except for Britain and France). Kohl has also called for talks on conventional and chemical weapons, where the Warsaw Pact has the edge over Nato.

The Chancellor's proposals have been criticised by his political ally, CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss, who says they are too open to conflicting interpretations.

They were welcomed immediately by Soviet spokesman Gerassimov.

They seem to point towards nuclear disengagement by the superpowers in Europe, which both the Chancellor's Office and the CDU/CSU parliamentary party had warned against.

The prospect of a treble zero might tempt the Soviet Union to resurrect the issue of third-state potential, meaning British and French nuclear missiles.

This cannot have been overlooked at the Chancellor's Office, and the risks the Chancellor's statement runs make it clear that Herr Kohl acted under pressure of developments.

The development in question was British support for the US-Soviet plan to scrap all land-based systems with ranges between 500 and 5,500km.

At the Stavanger conference of Nato Defence Ministers modernisation of missile systems with ranges of up to 500km was discussed.

This is a range that mainly threatens Germany on both sides of the East-West border, doesn't affect other Nato territory and thus fails to trigger the deterrent effect of escalating a potential conflict.

US Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger denied this scenario at Stavanger but is well known to have argued differently in the past. The Chancellor is bound to assume that the Americans are keen to ease their burden at Europe's expense.

That is why he opted for a treble zero option. The low-level control is not a new idea.

During the 1983 missile debate the Chancellor's Office drew up plans for removing missiles with ranges between 150 and 500km.

There were two aims. One was to delink conventional forces and tactical, theatre nuclear weapons that are the nucleus of Soviet offensive strategy.

The second was to ease the burden on the Federal Republic posed by nuclear weapons in this range assuming an ongoing threat to Soviet marshalling areas between 500 and 1,800km behind the Iron Curtain.

This threat potential would be posed by the Pershing 2, an accurately targetable deterrent.

America and Russia have instead chosen to adopt what for them is the more convenient approach of arms control "from above."

For Moscow, zero options starting at longer ranges ease the threat to Soviet territory.

At the same time the West is saddled with security zones of varying quality, with a lower level of security for Germany.

The Chancellor feels this is no longer acceptable. His bid to join forces with Britain and France in stating the European security case has failed for the time being, but that doesn't mean the game is over.

The treble zero Helmut Kohl has set against the Soviet double zero has much in common with dumping at prices that ruin the market.

It amounts to serving notice to quit the West's present strategic approach and should lead, after Moscow's nod of approval, to the first serious US consultations with Bonn.

That was certainly what the Chancellor had in mind. Washington's disarmament concept is lacking in security logic for Europe. It uses in isolation security categories the elimination of which takes the clout out of deterrence.

It is in the German and European interest for all ingredients that pose a security threat — nuclear, chemical and conventional — to be included in disarmament arrangements that don't run counter to security.

Herbert Kremp
(Die Welt, Bonn, 19 May 1987)

A horn player welcomes President Mitterrand (left) and Chancellor Kohl to the Bonn Embassy in Paris. Story this page. (Photo: AP)

Kohl, Mitterrand, Chirac, juggle with missiles ifs and buts

Lübecker Nachrichten

Disarmament dominated the first day of Franco-German talks in Paris. Other topics included the dispute over prices and offset levies in the common agricultural market and preparations for the Western economic summit in Venice.

But both played only a minor role in Chancellor Kohl's talks with both President Mitterrand and, later, with prime Minister Chirac.

M. Mitterrand and M. Chirac placed great value on achieving the greatest possible degree of agreement with Bonn on the various zero options in the nuclear disarmament debate.

The more Bonn and Paris have in common — and Western Europe as a whole — the greater their clout will be before the crucial round of US-Soviet talks, sources close to M. Chirac argue.

The single zero option is generally accepted, if not enthusiastically, while M. Mitterrand has followed in Mrs Thatcher's footsteps and voiced approval of the double zero option comprising all missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,000km.

He may well have been motivated by the the realisation that there is no point in swimming against the current and falling out of step with the neighbouring Germans.

In other words, the French President seems to assume that Bonn will eventually come round to accepting the double zero option.

Chancellor Kohl cannot, however, have failed to see that Premier Chirac has been extremely sceptical of Soviet salami tactics — one zero after another — since returning from Moscow.

His scepticism earned him Soviet accusations of being in love with the bomb and intent on sabotaging disarmament.

Despite Soviet protestations to the contrary, the French Premier is worried that Mr Gorbachov might try to browbeat Britain and France once medium-range US missiles have been withdrawn from Europe.

He feels the Soviet leader may try to harness public opinion in nuclear Britain and France to manoeuvre London and Paris into a situation in which they have no choice but to reduce their nuclear armament too.

French and German Foreign and Defence Ministers, meeting in Paris on 21 May, soon realised that their views differed on Mr Gorbachov's proposals.

At this meeting Herr Genscher, the German Foreign Minister, seems sure to have been in the minority.

The French have voiced scepticism of the Soviet disarmament offensive, and Herr Wörner, the German Defence Minister, is sceptical too.

Klaus Huwe
(Lübecker Nachrichten, 22 May 1987)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Superpowers busy SRINFing and LRINFing at Geneva sessions

While Nato countries debate the zero and double zero options the superpowers' delegations in Geneva are working flat out on framing a treaty to ban medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

Chief delegates Glitman and Obukhov and their deputies meet as a rule five times a week at either the US or the Soviet missions, with diplomatic and military working parties providing extra back-up.

Their task is to check the technical details of the treaty drafts submitted by the Soviet Union and the United States, to eliminate incongruities and, above all, to arrive at a version in keeping with the strict US guidelines on maximum verification.

Unless satisfactory terms are agreed on this point the Reagan administration could well find the treaty vetoed by Congress.

No-one who has seen for himself how thoroughly Mr Glitman and his staff go about their work in Geneva can doubt that much of the anxiety felt, especially in Bonn, about the possible consequences of a medium-range missile treaty is unwarranted inasmuch as Washington will not make the first move on nuclear arms limitation until the possibility of breaching or circumventing the treaty, as with Salt 2, is ruled out.

The US delegation in Geneva is guardedly optimistic, feeling that an LRINF, or longer-range intermediate nuclear forces, treaty on withdrawing Soviet SS-20 and US Pershing 2 and cruise missiles from Europe could be agreed this year and signed at a further summit meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachov.

This arrangement would merely eliminate the threat posed to Western Europe by Soviet SS-20s by withdrawing six Soviet warheads for every American one.

That, as one US official notes, is as far as it goes, and Europeans who are worried would do well to remember that agreement on these terms is a significant step forward.

Consideration must, of course, also be given to shorter-range intermediate nuclear forces, SRINF for short, and any arrangements made must logically be seen in the LRINF context.

Yet even the abolition of shorter-range intermediate missiles, the double zero option, would mean more and not less security.

Never in the history of arms control have the superpowers discussed in such detail aspects that for years were rated inviolable secrets of their respective defences.

America plans to append to its LRINF treaty draft three annexes dealing solely with verification.

The verification complex consists of four points, the first being the destruction of SS-20s, Pershing 2s and cruise missiles that are to be scrapped.

Their destruction is to be undertaken in the presence of US and Soviet observers, and possibly of observers from other Nato and Warsaw Pact states.

It remains to be seen whether this merely means observation of the technicalities and the destruction of the carrier vehicles and the defusing and elimination of warheads or the whole process is to take place as a TV spectacular.

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The second point is inspection of missile facilities for the devices that are to be retained (in whatever number). The Americans refer to launching pads, storage silos and manufacturing facilities; the Russians also mention test centres.

On both points agreement has been largely reached in principle at Geneva.

If inspectors were to be denied access to manufacturing facilities there ought at least to be a check of vehicles leaving them with the finished product. Verification in this context is envisaged as being along lines similar to those used to combat terrorism at airports.

Checks of this kind are not, of course, planned at military bases, for which only occasional checks as agreed at the Stockholm conference are planned.

The third point is one of the most difficult under discussion in Geneva. It is how suspicious goings-on in zones that don't form part of the agreed inspection area are to be checked.

And who is to say for sure, given the fairly small size of cruise missiles in particular, that no new SS-20s are being manufactured at a production facility that is under satellite surveillance?

Arrangements along Stockholm lines would provide at best for a contracting party whose suspicions have been aroused to give 36 hours notice of his intention to inspect the suspicious object for 48 hours no more than once a year.

The fourth point is equally controversial. The United States, forewarned by experience with the two Salt treaties, insists in Geneva that before any reduction in longer-range intermediate nuclear missiles in Europe an on-the-spot count of carriers and warheads is undertaken.

The Soviet Union has always objected, arguing that missile counts go beyond the aim and purpose of an agreement: that of reducing and scrapping weapons.

This is the point at which the Geneva negotiating teams come up against the obstacle that has long beset arms control talks between the superpowers.

It is that the figures submitted — after protracted negotiation — differ so widely. America, for instance, has so far stationed 106 cruise missiles in Western Europe, but the Soviet Union says the true number is 256.

Nato and the United States say 270 Soviet SS-20 missiles stationed west of the Urals are aimed at targets in Western Europe; the Soviet Union says the real figure is 240.

These details are what make it so difficult to negotiate what for America and the West are satisfactory, hard-and-fast terms.

SS-20s are highly mobile. Cruise missiles are extremely difficult to locate. More important still, can confidence built on the firm foundation of constant verification take the place of often ill-judged reliance on the other party's word?

Last but not least, the crucial question for the Americans in Geneva is whether the proposed agreement on intermediate nuclear forces can pave the way for a breakthrough in a sector in which Washington is even keener.

The United States would very much like to negotiate an equal reduction in strategic, long-range weapons, which it sees as the part of nuclear armament that has the most destabilising effect.

Jan Reifenberg

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 May 1987)

Iraqi attacks in the Gulf a harsh reminder

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

The Iraqi missile attack on the US frigate "Stark" was a harsh reminder of the existence of the seven-year-old Gulf War.

It repeatedly tends to be forgotten despite an almost innumerable daily toll of casualties — people torn apart by shells and shrapnel.

The superpowers have responded with surprising circumspection to the latest incidents in the Gulf.

The Soviet Union and the United States eschewed strong words even when a Soviet tanker hit a mine and the US frigate was hit by Iraqi missiles, killing 37 men.

President Reagan's order to the US fleet to be on standby and fire as soon as they feel under attack is the very least he could do in the circumstances.

In addition to Gulf state vessels US, Soviet, British and French naval patrols seek to protect oil tankers from raids by Iraqi and Iranian aircraft.

So far they have held their fire. Even the Soviet Union, which threatened to give Soviet tankers sailing for Kuwait full naval protection if they were attacked, has failed to react as far as can be seen.

The Americans and Russians are both avoided any activity that might drag them directly into a war in which both have long been indirectly in volved.

Moscow supports Baghdad while Washington has supplied Iran with weapons while providing Iraq with satellite photos of Iranian troop movements.

In the lee of the great powers arms dealers from all over the world are selling arms and equipment in the Middle East.

They not only do excellent business; they also gather intelligence on the performance of material sold.

The French, whose Exocet missile proved so deadly in the Falklands war, can point to the direct hit on the "Stark" as further proof of its efficiency.

There are political reasons why the profits to be earned from arms dealing with the Gulf states are unlikely to decline in the foreseeable future.

There can be few theatres in which a war has so evidently been waged in the interest of all concerned, with the possible exception of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, who started it.

The Iraqi President felt the confused situation in Iran after the Shah was ousted in 1979 was a not-to-be-missed opportunity of making territorial gains in the Shatt al-Arab.

This plan backfired. Iraq as an enemy has since given the mullahs an excellent opportunity of calling on the Iranian people to make increasingly exacting sacrifices.

Iranian domestic opposition has been almost totally destroyed and the Shi'ite mullahs can afford to be even more fanatical in their holy war to oust Saddam Hussein, a Sunni Moslem, from his palace in Baghdad.

Iran's population is three times that of Iraq, but Iran is unlikely ever to inflict serious defeat on the Iraqi armed forces, which are much better equipped.

So far there are no signs of Saddam Hussein seeming likely to fall foul of domestic opposition either.

Even if he were to be pushed more on to the defensive, which is unlikely, his allies would continue to back him.

Neither the Gulf states nor Israel nor the Soviet Union have the least interest in an Iranian victory, which would spread Islamic revolution and with it the declared aim of expelling the Jews from Jerusalem.

Yet the same countries would hate to see Iraq win, especially as Baghdad threatened before the fighting began to emerge as the predominant state in the Middle East.

For years there has been next to no headway in the Gulf War and there are few signs that anything is likely to change in the near future.

Given this state of affairs, there would seem to be only one way — an extremely dangerous one — to exert a decisive influence on the fighting: internationalisation.

Arab commentators have suggested that internationalisation of the conflict is exactly what Saddam Hussein has in mind, implying that the attack on the frigate was anything but a mistake.

Military experts add that Mirage pilots would need to be near-blind not to see the target they aimed their missiles at, so the Iraqi leader may feel the great powers would have a vital interest in ending the fighting once their own forces were threatened.

A ceasefire could indeed be brought about by means of a comprehensive arms embargo. If the countries that count in political terms really wanted the Iranian and Iraqi peoples would at long last have allies in their quest for peace.

If the superpowers fail to adopt a fresh approach thousands of people will continue to die pointless deaths month after month.

Michael Petersen

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 20 May 1987)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Elections show voters more ready to change parties

Saarbrücker Zeitung

The volatility of voters in the *Land* elections in Hamburg and the Rhineland-Palatinate this month has surprised politicians and pollsters alike.

(The CDU dropped it share of the poll in both elections and the Free Democrats gained ground. The CDU will now form a coalition government in Rhineland-Palatinate with the Free Democrats instead of having an absolute majority. In Hamburg, the SPD, which had been holding on to power with a minority administration, increased its poll and is also likely to form a coalition with the FDP).

The indications are that voters are reacting to more immediate events and issues rather than sticking with dogma.

There are at least two reasons: one is the increasing influence of the media. The other is a greater alertness by the voter. It is a trend which illustrates the electorate's democratic awareness. This awareness becomes all the more apparent the more serious the issues at stake are.

People felt that their own personal interests were affected, for example, by the problems facing the agricultural sector or the discussion about nuclear disarmament.

The Hesse election showed that politics and politicians have to be plausible to convince voters.

The Hamburg and Rhineland-Palatinate election show that voters have moved away from camps. Politicians who felt that, in the near future at least, there would be basically two political camps, the CDU/CSU and FDP on the one hand and the SPD and Greens on the other, will have to do some rethinking.

Another political fact of life has emerged: absolute majorities are becoming more and more difficult.

The results of the state elections in the Saarland and North Rhine-Westphalia in 1985, where the SPD in both cases won absolute majorities, are unlikely to be repeated.

The performance of the Greens in Hamburg suggests that the party is on the verge of both regional and federal decline.

The FDP, on the other hand, appears to have overcome the initial difficulties it faced following its decision in 1982 to change sides and support the CDU/CSU instead of the SPD in Bonn. It no longer wants to be viewed as a mere appendage to the CDU/CSU.

Saarland Premier Oskar Lafontaine may be right when he says that a more self-confident FDP will benefit the "political culture" in the Federal Republic.

The CDU/CSU, and above all Chancellor Helmut Kohl, are now confronted by some awkward tasks.

Disarmament, especially when defined in such plausible terms by Moscow, has met with the approval and aroused the hopes of many West Germans.

The coalition in-fighting about zero and double-zero solutions is confusing.

The elections in Hamburg and in the Rhineland-Palatinate showed that voters want greater clarity. The FDP in Hamburg realised this and intends acting accordingly.

Some FDP politicians in Bonn, however, may find it difficult to stomach the probable SPD-FDP coalition in the city-state.

Although it is much too early to talk of an upward trend for the SPD the party must now realise that the Greens can no longer be seriously considered as potential partners.

Lafontaine, always ready to jump on any bandwagon which is going in the right direction, by no means regards the SPD as an "appendage to the big parties". His recent remarks about the Greens were exclusively derogatory.

State elections will be held in Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein in autumn, and in both cases the FDP has yet to obtain the five per cent of the vote needed for parliamentary representation.

In view of recent electoral shifts, the successful opening up of the FDP, the election losses of the CDU and the stopped downward trend of the SPD both elections are particularly significant.

In the meantime, the FDP has the opportunity to prove that it can do more than just make or break majorities for other parties and whether it can can help ensure greater political stability.

All these developments are bound to have repercussions on the conservative-liberal coalition in Bonn.

The coming months are a test for the flexibility of both the CDU and the SPD, especially since issues alone are not the only problems which have to be resolved.

The days of thinking in terms of rigid political camps are over.

Günter Brozio

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 19 May 1987)

Success of the professor unconventional

Ingo von Münch, a professor of public law, has led the FDP back into the Hamburg assembly after an absence of nine years. The irony is that in the long run, the party might not thank him for it.

There are some superficial reasons: in many ways, he is more unconventional than many Greens. His suits are more than just out of fashion and they don't fit properly. His ties belong to another era. He is small and thin, and his high-pitched voice often cracks when he gets annoyed.

Before the election he advised the Social Democrats to take a break from power to regenerate themselves in opposition.

During the election campaign he could be seen rushing through Hamburg like greased lightning in an effort to combine his election and university commitments.

The 54 year-old professor of public law at the University of Hamburg has never left his university career.

He feels that politicians without a proper profession are a "great misfortune". This may explain why he seems so relaxed about the sharing out of the spoils of power following his party's success.

Von Münch enjoys being a professor and a credible politician.

He countered the criticism levelled by the Greens against the "establishment" parties by asking "What does establishment mean? Who's been in the city parliament for years, and who's been outside?"

Although many people in Hamburg know who von Münch is, the Hamburg FDP, with its 1,500 official members, is still very much an unknown quantity.

"Political wasteland begins behind von Münch," one journalist remarked, and he's not all that wrong.

The remark not only relates to the party's personalities, but to the content of liberal policies.

Politically in, sartorially out . . . Ingo von Münch. (Photo: dpa)

Von Münch himself is in his element when it comes to law and order, internal security or the question of a free and democratic social system.

His party colleagues, however, are more versed in the kind of economic liberalism which has typified the fundamental political changes in Bonn since 1982.

During the campaign his supporters advocated more market economy, more privatisation and greater financial support for small and medium-sized firms.

The FDP was hoping to achieve its objectives in a coalition government with the CDU.

These objectives are unlikely to meet with a positive response in the expected SPD-FDP coalition.

Von Münch has repeatedly denied that he is an incorrigible social-liberal, even though he feels that the 13 years of SPD-FDP government in Bonn were on the whole successful.

The FDP will make sure he doesn't overstep the mark when intermingling FDP and SPD policies. *Dagmar Reim*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 24 May 1987)

All the qualities plus a dose of fortune, too

A successful politician should ideally be hard-working, power-hungry and tactically skilful.

The chairman of the Rhineland-Palatinate FDP, Rainer Brüderle, possesses all these qualities and a fair amount of good fortune to boot.

The 41 year-old economist became party chairman in 1983 following the FDP's extremely poor showing in the state election.

No-one then felt the party had a future in the Land. If he had failed in this election to reach the five per cent threshold, he might well have been politically spent. But.

The up until 1983 unknown head of the economics section of the Mainz city authorities, Rainer Brüderle, set himself the ambitious target of getting the FDP back into the *Land* parliament.

Brüderle will now begin coalition talks with the CDU with a demand for two ministerial posts. There are seven FDP assembly members.

He has restored the self-confidence of the 6,000 members of the Rhineland-Palatinate FDP.

In the past four years of opposition outside parliament, Brüderle repeatedly reminded the public that the FDP was still a force.

He turned out to be a vociferous opponent of the CDU and its absolute majority.

His criticism was sometimes almost tasteless. The Premier, Bernhard Vogel, and his government tried to simply ignore the impudent upstart. But somehow he couldn' be ignbred. He was always informed about the government's internal meetings.

He is unlikely to come up with major policy ideas in the expected CDU-FDP coalition government. But he calls for the "full use of privatisation potential" at regional and local government level and has promised to stop *Land* involvement in 30 industrial projects.



Gave self-confidence to the faithful . . . Rainer Brüderle. (Photo: Werek)

The FDP chairman gave an idea of the new style on the election evening when he turned up to a press conference with his wife.

During his period as head of the economics section in Mainz Brüderle never had any trouble working together with Social Democrats.

He could be classified as a leftist-liberal within the FDP.

This does not make him an unreliable partner for Bernhard Vogel.

However, the fact that the future deputy premier has a greater political affinity to the previous head of the CDU parliamentary party, Hans-Otto Wilhelm, than to the cabinet leader may give Vogel some food for thought.

During the election campaign, for example, Vogel pulled no punches in his criticism of the FDP.

It is now clear that Vogel's own position will not be as powerful as it was before the election. *Eckhart Kauntz*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 May 1987)

■ SECURITY

Extremist groups not gaining ground, says agency

Frankfurter Allgemeine

There are about 22,000 members of extreme right-wing groups in West Germany, says the Verfassungsschutz, the counter-espionage agency.

It says that membership has remained static over the past few years, but admits that the figure is no more than an estimate.

It also says left-wing extremist groups are also not increasing membership. It points out that extremists of all shades get few votes at elections.

The agency says foreigners' extremist organisations were also not gaining ground in Germany.

The agency presents a white paper, which is like an annual report. It is compiled at the headquarters in Cologne and revised in Bonn by senior officials at the Interior Ministry, which holds overall responsibility for the report.

The first chapter deals with left-wing extremism in 1986, including both pro- and anti-Moscow groups.

This chapter has since 1983 included a section on left-wing terrorism, which earlier rated a separate chapter.

The second chapter deals with right-wing extremism. It is only a third as long as the first, which roughly corresponds to the membership ratio.

The third chapter looks into extremist activities by foreign residents, the fourth into counter-espionage, with a section — since 1985 — dealing with the more confidential aspects of preventive counter-espionage.

Much of the report relies on readily accessible sources of information such as leaflets, strategy papers, newspapers and magazines of the groups in question.

The report is partly intended as a contribution toward general political information.

The main-line organisations run by orthodox Communists, the Communist Party (DKP) and its youth and student movements, are said to have totalled about 64,000 members last year, or roughly the same figure as the year before.

The alliance policy pursued by the DKP at universities is outlined and claimed to have helped it to win 18 per cent of seats on student bodies.

The DKP sees itself as an "inseparable part of the international revolutionary movement." It continues in principle to advocate the use of force for revolutionary ends.

A new point made in the 1986 Verfassungsschutz report is that the DKP claims to operate in strict accordance with Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, "in order to conceal the unconstitutional nature of its objectives."

Its predecessor, the KPD, which was banned in the 1950s, was said to adopt the same tactics.

A reference is made to the 1950s ruling by the Federal Constitutional Court banning the KPD and describing its tactics as "perversion" aimed at undermining constitutional government and democracy with reference to the constitution that guarantees them.

Over half the DKP's leading members were active members of the KPD; over a third have attended courses in East Germany or the Soviet Union.

The DKP is said to try through a variety of organisations to gain influence on the peace movement. As in earlier years there are said to have been numerous alliances in which Communists and Social Democrats have collaborated on a basis of equality.

The DKP newspaper *Unsere Zeit* is said to have published interviews with well-known Social Democrats and SPD members are said to have served on the governing bodies of DKP-influenced organisations.

The DKP is claimed to have been politically guided — "in a largely conspiratorial manner" — by the SED in East Berlin, which supplied it with funds totalling about DM65m.

The so-called New Left, which is neither run nor backed by the pro-Moscow Communists, is said to aim at eliminating the social system in the Federal Republic of Germany by revolutionary means.

The New Left includes Trots and so-called "K Groups" (they used mainly to be Maoist). New Left militants are said to have resorted to "terrorist practices."

A clear increase in the number of terrorist raids carried out by left-wing extremists is reported. The Red Army Faction is said to have been to blame for three murders and 315 explosive and incendiary raids in 1986 — aimed mainly at atomic power installations.

The RAF continued the offensive it began in winter 1984. RAF "militants" (meaning sympathisers rather than hard-core members who specialise in murder) are reported to have carried out a large number of bomb raids on government and industrial facilities.

The estimated 22,100 members of right-wing extremist organisations included 1,500 neo-Nazis and 6,800 members of the NPD and similar groups.

The NPD, or National Democrats, often paid lip service to the Constitution and advocated a neutral German nation-state. Right-wing extremists had adopted environmental arguments and agitated against foreign residents and applicants for political asylum in the Federal Republic.

One group claimed the United States had been the main driving force behind the disaster it felt World War II to have been. Another noted:

"Let us not forget that the wartime Allies have found willing stoolpigeons in Bonn, from Adenauer to Kohl."

The leading neo-Nazi group is the Free German Workers' Party (FAP), which is said to have increased its membership to about 400. Militant neo-Nazis and right-wing extremists have resorted to violence.

Seventy-one acts of violence and 1,281 breaches of the law are attributed to them — but only one bomb raid and four cases of arson.

The number of foreign residents with extremist views is said to have remained unchanged at roughly 116,000, including left-wing, right-wing and nationalist groups.

The majority of the 4.5 million foreign residents are said to be law-abiding and not given to extremism. The largest extremist category is about 44,000 Turks.

The Verfassungsschutz report notes that East Bloc espionage is aimed at military, political and economic targets.

"Legal residencies" of East Bloc states employ agents, with the GDR intelligence agency playing a leading role.

An important point is that the defection of a leading Verfassungsschutz officer, Hansjoachim Tiedge, to the GDR in summer 1985 did not seriously affect the Cologne anti-espionage agency's work, as had initially been feared.

Last year 43 people — 25 more than in 1985 — were held in connection with espionage activities.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 May 1987)

Nipping trouble in the bud

Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann says that "enemies of the Constitution" stand no chance in the Federal Republic.

He is right. But that doesn't mean that complacency should be allowed to creep in. The Verfassungsschutz, Germany's Cologne-based counter-espionage agency, still needs to keep a close eye on political extremists.

It deserves much of the credit for ensuring that no anti-democratic organisation of any significance has ever gained a foothold in the Federal Republic.

Its agents have always kept tabs on such organisations at the formative stage and warned the public of their activities.

Political and economic stability has ensured, despite fairly high unemployment, that West Germans are not susceptible to political extremism.

This is partly due to the German historic experience of the Nazis and to the existence of a communist state in Germany.

This is a point that has been taken by groups whose aims are unconstitutional, and some of them have switched methods accordingly.

Instead of openly advocating anti-democratic views they latch on to organisations whose members may, for the most part, be anything but undemocratic or unconstitutional in outlook.

It goes without saying that a democratic state must protect itself from such attempts to undermine it.

Athletes for peace or farmers against nuclear power must surely realise that extremists in their ranks will tend to harm their cause. "Enemies of the Constitution" have more in mind than peace or atomic energy.

Holger Wachold

(Bremer Nachrichten, 20 May 1987)

Waking up to the role of the sleeper

Lübecker Nachrichten

The East Bloc has many agents planted in West Germany as sleepers. They are on standby and live normal lives until the time comes when they are needed.

In an emergency — a state of tension or war — his task is to unearth hidden transmitters and relay troop movements and deployment areas of Bundeswehr and Allied units to the Warsaw Pact command.

As a sleeper he will merely check from time to time whether his wireless equipment is in working order.

He is specially trained for emergency action, says the latest annual report of the Verfassungsschutz, Germany's Cologne-based anti-espionage agency.

East Bloc agents are said to have been issued with even more sophisticated equipment, such as cameras a mere 4cm long and 2cm wide.

These cameras, which are no larger than a nine-volt calculator battery, can photograph up to 100 pages of A 4 documents.

A camera and spare film of this size were found hidden in the casing of an East Bloc agent's electric razor. A flash unit isn't needed; the light from a 60-watt bulb is sufficient.

Yet even East Bloc agents can suffer a stroke of bad luck. Take the amazing ironic fate of one couple who for years had been sending back to East Berlin information about American troops in the Kaiserslautern area.

They mailed their films to the GDR, but on one occasion they were sent back by the East German authorities because the parcel did not comply with East German postal regulations.

The West German Bundespost was unable to return it to the bogus sender and opened the parcel after the prescribed period to see what it contained.

The couple were identified, arrested, charged and sentenced.

The East Bloc leaves no stone unturned in its bids to come by Western high-tech data — by hook or by crook.

Firms in the Federal Republic that are known to be in financial difficulties are offered lucrative contracts in return for supplying goods the export of which is forbidden by the terms of the 1961 Foreign Trade and Payments Act.

Economic espionage saves the Soviet Union billions it would otherwise have to invest in research and development of its own. Western microelectronic know-how is supplied "free of charge."

"Mixed firms" prove increasingly important. They are companies incorporated in the Federal Republic. East European state trading corporations are the majority shareholder, with part-owners in the Federal Republic.

Companies of this kind are particularly well suited to double as sources of illicit information.

An East German agent who made advances to a woman working in telecommunications for the Bundeswehr invited her and her boyfriend to spend the weekend in Venice with him.

A most generous host on previous visits to casinos, he offered the woman DM5,000 in cash over a slap-up meal with champagne and all the trimmings at a luxury hotel in Venice.

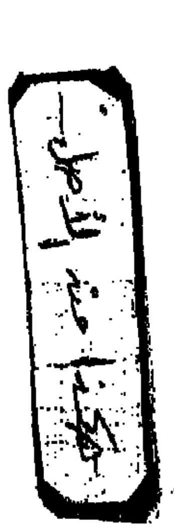
She threatened to report him to the Bundeswehr. He realised she was an investment that was unlikely to pay dividends and beat a hasty retreat.

After a senior Verfassungsschutz officer, Hansjoachim Tiedge, defected to East Berlin two years ago the Cologne agency's activities were expected to be affected.

Its report for 1986 says this was not the case. Twenty-six GDR agents in the Federal Republic were identified, putting the boot on the other foot!

Friedrich Kuhn

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 20 May 1987)



■ PERSPECTIVE

Soviet proposal on German reunification fires imaginations and illusions

DIE WELT

Are reports of a Soviet proposal to consider German reunification bona fide? Or are they just speculation launched by a handful of Germans?

Either way, they have promptly triggered a public debate that has outstripped disarmament.

They preoccupy the imagination not only in terms of a greater or lesser threat; they also fuel the fires of a German tendency to harbour illusions.

Germany is quick to see a possibility as a certainty. Mr Gorbachov is said to have a grand design.

Preoccupation with the man sets aside sober appraisal of what is possible and increases the possibility of error. More and more people may be drifting further and further away from reality.

Moscow knows that the Germans are easily excited or upset. Under the new man in the Kremlin it has also come to realise that merely stirring up anxiety is not enough to gain political ground.

Anxiety doesn't last. It is deep-seated but fleeting — or at least tends to switch the object to which it attaches. It is unreliable.

Kremlin psychologists are convinced that to gain German support they must offer the Germans something constructive, something likely to keep them preoccupied with themselves.

An evergreen in this respect is the Germans' predisposition to concern themselves with the future of their country, divided since the end of World War II.

The Soviet Union has made several attempts to rechannel in their own direction political currents in Europe and further afield, the first being between 1952 and 1954.

Stalin started the ball rolling. Khrushchov had another go in 1964. On both occasions power changed hands — in Moscow.

Yet Soviet strategists have only ever had one aim in view: to prevent, forestall or break up the Atlantic alliance, which would not be viable without the Federal Republic of Germany as a member.



(Cartoon: Walter Hanel/Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger)

Encouraging German introspection and eliminating the very foundation of an effective US political and military presence in Europe is a lasting Soviet imperial aim.

The incorporation of the Federal Republic of Germany (and Japan) in the pattern of US alliances is the most serious political defeat the Soviet Union has suffered since the war — followed in 1960 by the loss of China as a Soviet ally. The successors of Stalin and Khrushchov have consolidated their empire, holding it together by force and arming it to world power status in military terms.

But that was as far as their energy went. Further economic or foreign policy progress was not possible. The Russians have failed to get rid of the Americans, which they find most unsatisfactory.

That is why every Soviet leader who sets himself the target of creatively safeguarding his imperial power will make a fresh attempt to break the bounds of his military borders and drive the United States out of Eurasia.

The incentive Moscow can offer Japan — the Kurile islands — is less interesting than the option it can offer a divided Germany.

Both the German domestic debate and the Euro-American debate show how the Russians can make military, political and psychological gains by disarmament proposals involving partial US withdrawals from Europe.

What is lacking is the grand design, the offer that can't be refused.

If Mr Gorbachov establishes a link of any substance between military disengagement and political solutions for continental Europe — a link the Americans at present fail to establish — progress, as Count Lambsdorff says with a post-Bismarckian gesture, might be made.

It certainly would in Germany, and be it only as the result of misinformation. It alone could be enough to make the national debate in Germany come to a head over the country's elected political representatives.

Mr Gorbachov and his planners may be fascinated by the idea of a Pax Sovietica in Europe, militarily and politically ejecting the United States from Europe by means of disengagement and settin up a German federation (not a reunited Germany) with an economic bias toward the East.

But this move would lead to the loss of Soviet chessmen on the international board. The nations of eastern central Europe and Germans east of the Elbe would tend toward a "neutral," middle-of-the-road position.

Would the glue of the Soviet empire be sufficient to keep them together? That is very hard to tell.

Herbert Kremp

(Die Welt, Bonn, 15 May 1987)

The Stalin Note

Speculation about a possible offer of German reunification terms by Mr Gorbachov calls to mind the so-called Stalin Note of March 1952. In a note to the Western powers dated 10 March 1952 the Soviet leader said Moscow might be prepared to consider German reunification on a basis of neutrality and limited rearmament. Stalin's offer was viewed by Chancellor Adenauer and his Bonn government and by the three Western Allies as a tactical move designed to upset plans to incorporate the Federal Republic of Germany in the Western alliance. They turned it down. As important political documents and minutes have yet to be released for publication by official archives, politicians and historians still disagree on whether the rejection of Stalin's offer was a genuine missed opportunity of reunifying Germany.

(Allgemeine Zeitung, Mainz, 14 May 1987)

Forum with Poles covers better relations, security, debts

The Jaruzelski security plan, help for debt-ridden countries and town-twinning were all on the agenda at the German-Polish Forum in Kiel.

It was the fifth round of discussions by a forum whose talks have come to be regarded as a yardstick of the state of German-Polish relations.

Some controversial issues such as the German Question and debt problems were raised, but some other unsolved domestic and foreign policy questions were set aside.

The forum meets every other year, alternately in the Federal Republic and in Poland. This year its keynote topic was: "What can we jointly do for Europe?"

It was attended by roughly 100 politicians, academics, trade unionists, businessmen, Church and media representatives.

In Germany the forum is held under the auspices of the German Society for Foreign Policy by the head of its Bonn research unit, Professor Karl Kaiser.

In Poland it is supervised for the Institute of International Affairs by Ryszard Wojna of the Polish parliament.

The main topic dealt with in the security policy debate was the proposal by the Polish leader, General Jaruzelski, to set up a zone of "increased security" in Europe.

It is envisaged as including the European Community member-countries north of the Alps, excluding Britain and France, and the Warsaw Pact states, excluding the Soviet Union and south-eastern Europe.

It is mainly aimed at reducing and withdrawing weapon systems suitable for a surprise attack. At the Kiel forum it was seen as an updated version of the 1957 Rapacki Plan that deserved to be considered by the West.

This summer, it was agreed, German and Polish experts ought to meet in Warsaw to sound out the Jaruzelski Plan's prospects.

The economic policy working group paid most attention to the Seeler Plan, named after Hamburg Social Democrat Hans-Joachim Seeler, MEP.

The Seeler Plan is a resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 22 January. It aims to show how both heavily-indebtwed countries and their creditors can avert financial ruin.

It proposes writing off the smaller part of the debts and converting the larger part into an investment fund.

Capital and interest will continue to be paid into this fund, which in the long term will enable debtors to meet their debts.

The forum called on the European Community to take the plan up. It also advocated a joint declaration before the year's end establishing formal ties between the European Community and the Council for Mutual Economic Cooperation (Comecon).

This declaration is ready to be signed except for a clause dealing with Berlin.

It is for the Soviet Union to decide when to give the go-ahead by including Berlin.

The forum finally came up with a number of suggestions on how to improve bilateral ties, such as the work of the joint commission on school textbooks, further town-twinning arrangements, collaboration on publications, youth exchange and the reuniting of divided families.

No headway was made on the proposal to set up a youth encounter centre in Kreisau — and none on the idea of setting up a German-Polish youth exchange scheme along the lines of the Franco-German scheme.

The forum's recommendations are first referred to a joint steering committee that meets regularly between full sessions. The steering committee refers them to the appropriate political and economic bodies in the two countries.

The next session of the German-Polish Forum is to be held in Poznan in spring 1989.

Stefan Dietrich

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 12 May 1987)

■ THE WORKFORCE

State training schemes help those who miss out

Hannoversche Allgemeine

State-sponsored schemes are coming to the rescue of young people unable to find apprenticeships or other training places.

Schemes such as the Lower Saxony Training Programme (ANP) aim to help out where private industry has failed to provide enough jobs.

Last year, 730,000 applicants tried for apprenticeships in Germany and 44,000 were rejected. Many of those 44,000 now attend government training courses.

In Lower Saxony alone 6,700 last year applied for places in the state government scheme, which began in 1983.

Since then institutions such as adult education centres, private schools and trade unions have been receiving public money to train young people in over 50 different jobs.

Together with normal in-plant trainees they attend the vocational school and take their exams at the corresponding chambers.

The first ANP trainees finished their courses at the supplementary schools just over a year ago.

"They did just as well in the exams, which are comparable with those at state-run schools, as the in-plant trainees," said the spokesman for the Union of Salaried Employees (DAG) schools, Hans Jürgen Hoffmann.

And what about their chances of finding a job? The job prospects of pupils who have completed ANP courses, the Lower Saxony Ministry of Education and Science claims, are good.

Employment offices also confirmed that their job placement chances are just as high or low as the trainees who received in-plant training only.

Roughly 1,250 of the 1,450 trainees who successfully completed the ANP programme in January 1986 had either found a job, began military service or started attending further training courses four months later.

Hoffmann pointed out, many firms have simply stopped training young people, even though they urgently need manpower.

This is where the government is expected to fill the breach and, as it were, finance the know-how of future employees in private industry.

ANP pupils by no means feel like *"second-class" trainees or "outcasts" of* the working world.

After all, all the *Land* of Lower Saxony is doing is to top up the short supply of apprenticeships.

On the whole, the ANP pupils are not afraid of the future. Special courses also exist in Lower Saxony for the less qualified applicants. One 21-year-old, for example, spoke with satisfaction about his ANP apprenticeship as a joiner: "I *can devote more attention to a single* piece here," he explained.

"In a craft enterprise I would have to work much faster."

Instead of producing pieces in series, he can take the time to file and plane his items. And what are his plans after the ANP apprenticeship? "I'm not sure. Maybe I'll study architecture."

Some school-leavers take advantage of the ANP programme as a "stopover" before starting to study or as an alternative to the period of practical training needed for their studies.

Another 21-year-old wants to study mechanical engineering after training as an engineering draughtsman.

School-leavers *try to acquire skills in* the industrial and technical field before going to university.

Klaus Galonska from the Hanover employment office recalls that there were over 100 applicants for a training place in tailoring last year.

On the "free market", however, there were only seven vacancies. The rest went to the supplementary schools.

Practical training as a tailor (or dressmaker) is often the first step on the way to studying fashion and design.

ANP pupils receive a monthly training allowance of DM395.

Lower Saxony, which has invested roughly DM415m in the ANP training *programme so far, has also agreed to* pay the social insurance contributions of ANP trainees.

There is still an appreciable nationwide demand for government support when seeking a training place. A whole series of vocational training measures exists in all federal states, whether in the form of in-plant training or the establishment *of government-financed* apprenticeships or schools.

These trainees are not included in the unemployment statistics.

Young people taking part in commercial training courses have particular problems finding a job.

The current job placement ratios in Lower Saxony cannot disguise this fact.

Hard-hit

Young women are particularly hard hit, since they often move from the training to the further training stage.

Even though they have been told about their poor job prospects by the employment office many young women still opt for training as a commercial clerk.

Although the chance of getting a job improves with every further training course a lot of young people want to work rather than keep on learning.

This at any rate is the experience of careers advisers.

Many women also choose traditionally female jobs in the ANP programme, for example office work and domestic science.

Yet the government training schemes provide a good opportunity to do away with the usual role patterns.

One 21-year-old, for example, is learning computer electronics at a DAG school, a branch generally considered to be a male domain.

Anyone can apply for a place in the Lower Saxony training programme. Both the Ministry of Education and Science and the DAG are satisfied with the success of their initiative so far.

However, the Lower Saxony government is very reserved when it comes to future predictions for the special pro-

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Demand growing for women executives

Sheer demand is likely to increase the number of women in executive positions over the next few years, a *management conference in Wiesbaden* has been told.

Managements in some firms are getting so old that wholesale replacement will soon be necessary. The need for qualified management is great and more and more qualified women are coming through.

Delegates from leading German companies spoke against introducing a quota system for women in senior jobs. They felt this would only lead to increased efforts to get around the regulations.

Artur Wollert, a member of the managing board of Hertie, the retail chain, told the second congress of managers *that the significance of female employees* was growing. In the 1990s, firms would be much more reliant on female labour.

Personal managers were tending to hire more women to reflect the increase in female graduates with the appropriate economic degrees.

They were taking action instead of making eloquent speeches and declarations of intent.

Greater efforts were essential for economical reasons. Qualified management staff were in demand and extensive management reeplacements would soon be needed to replace aging staff.

The demographic development, *however, reduces the potential manpower* for the job.

In Wollert's opinion, the varying career concepts of men and women must be taken into account in junior management programmes.

"Women regard their individual development as the decisive factor for their career. Men, on the other hand have a more pronounced feeling for the unofficial network of contacts as channels of information as well as for mutual benefit," said Wollert.

Dieter Jaehrling (Audi) *called for* a more critical appraisal of selection and assessment procedures, since they often one-sidedly choose men as the most suitable candidates.

Typical role patters and social prejudice tend to induce many girls to choose job careers which have no future.

More should be done, the personnel managers agreed, to arouse their interest in industrial and technical training.

IBM Germany, for example, provides training grants for female school-leavers in the field of natural and engineering sciences.

"Women with future-oriented and sound job qualifications are in demand," Ihno Schneevoigt (IBM) stressed.

In order to strengthen the middle-management level, "where women are poorly represented," qualified female job *applicants should be given* a better chance.

Schneevoigt supports the idea of fixed quantitative targets for female employment.

All these measures, however, cannot help if a woman's career is interrupted or terminated by family commitments.

A family-oriented personnel policy, therefore, was described as the priority task during the next few years.

Heinz Stüwe

(Die Welt, Bonn, 18 May 1987)

■ BUSINESS

Russians open the door to joint ventures

The Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachov, has officially invited Western firms to set up joint ventures in the Soviet Union.

Dresdner Bank has joined forces with the Moscow State Bank and the Soviet Foreign Trade Bank in appointing an advisory group to help German firms get started.

Advice will deal with everything, from launching problems, day-to-day running problems, financing and profit repatriation.

Arrangements similar to the ones reached with Dresdner Bank in Frankfurt have been made by Soviet banks with banks in Finland, France and Italy.

The German bank sees the agreement as an opportunity of reactivating trade ties between the Soviet Union and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Dresdner was the first West German bank to open a representative office in Moscow back in 1973.

Joint ventures are clearly an attempt by the Soviet authorities to produce at *home what would otherwise* have to be imported at great expense.

Vsevolod S. Murakhovsky, deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, had earlier announced that talks were already being held on plant protection and agricultural machinery production.

The first enquiry has already been received. *Erich Gerlach, head of the Braas* Group in Frankfurt, is delighted the group has been set up.

His firm is the largest manufacturer of roofing materials in the Federal Republic and he has hoped for over a decade to be able to build a roof tile works in the Soviet Union.

Soviet experts are said to have been keenly interested in Braas products for some time, the demand for roofing material in the Soviet Union being enormous.

Braas already have a joint venture in Hungary.

While Mr Gorbachov's joint venture plans are taking more definite shape the Soviet Union seems to be having difficulty with small firms in the private sector, which are now legal.

Izvestia reported in mid-May that only 4,500 people had registered as small-scale private entrepreneurs in Moscow by May Day.

The authorities had discouraged would-be private-sector businessmen, smothering them with red tape.

In one case the authority had shown detective zeal in demanding information from a would-be private businessman on how he proposed to come by the supplies his firm would need.

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(Hamburger Abendblatt, 18 May 1987)

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grammes. In 1987 there will be 5,000 fewer school-leavers in Lower Saxony than in 1986.

At the moment the state is at least giving the grandchildren of the *Wirtschaftswunder* generation an immediate objective.

One can only hope that these young people *will not be disappointed by the* realities of the job market in later years.

Karin Dzionara

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 14 May 1987)

Shoe maker looks forward to putting soles on Soviet feet

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Salamander, a leading West German shoe manufacturer, plans building *and running* shoe factories jointly with the Proletarian Victory combine in Leningrad and the Red Star combine in Vitebsk, Byelorussia.

Chief executive Franz-Josef Dazert says: "If we are to be the largest shoe manufacturer in Europe we must have a presence in all European markets, especially the largest." — and that means, among others, the Soviet Union.

The new reform course of Moscow leader Mr Gorbachov now makes this possible.

Yet despite the wide range of experience gained in dealings with East Bloc countries the plan to set up joint ventures *in the Soviet Union is an entirely* new move.

"It won't be easy," the Stuttgart firm's chief executive says.

A joint venture with combines organised along planned economy lines is totally different from licensing manufacturers in Hungary, Yugoslavia or East Germany to make shoes to Salamander specifications and with the Sal*amander* brand-name.

"The differences start with how concepts are defined," Herr Dazert says. Soviet balance sheets are a far cry from what Western accountants draw up. Soviet planners haven't a clue what Western firms mean by cash flow.

Assistance

The Soviet government naturally offers advice and assistance in setting up joint ventures. So does Dresdner Bank of Frankfurt, one of the Federal Republic's Big Three private banks.

But no-one yet knows how profits to which a German partner might be entitled are to be converted from roubles into marks and repatriated.

This being the case, how can joint ventures possibly hope to succeed?

The Soviet leaders are clearly most interested in them, although aims and objectives seem to have changed within six months.

When Mr Gorbachov realised early in 1986 that the ailing Soviet economy could no longer be put back on its feet solely by economic planning he embarked on a course of economic reform.

Glasnost, or a more open society, was joined as a slogan by perestroika, or restructuring. Mr Gorbachov used them as *though they could be equated with* peace and progress.

The proposed opportunity for Western firms to join forces with Soviet industrial combines initially had an extremely onesided objective.

Soviet industry, which was not particularly advanced technologically, was to be modernised. New products that would then, it was hoped, be internationally competitive could then be exported to earn foreign exchange.

Few if any West German firms, it was soon clear, would be prepared to supply the Russians with know-how on this basis.

Soviet Deputy Premier Alexei Antonov, who visited the Federal Republic last month, made it clear that Soviet leaders were ready to learn.

"The idea of cooperation means combining the potential of both countries in the technical, scientific and production sectors," he said in Stuttgart. He made little or no mention of manufacturing mainly for export.

The first deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, Vsevolod Mu*rakhovsky*, was even more pointed on his visit to Bonn in connection with agricultural cooperation.

Joint ventures as envisaged, he said, were intended first and foremost to meet enormous demand in the Soviet domestic market.

Exports were needed solely to earn foreign exchange with which to pay for *supplies imported from the West.*

This surprising change of mind was registered with keen interest and renewed hope by German firms interested in joint ventures.

West German firms have no intention of supplying know-how and setting up advanced production facilities in the Soviet Union for fine words alone.

Heinemann, an engineering firm in St Georgen in the Black Forest, has been quick to respond to the new Soviet approach.

Chief executive Reiner Lang has already come to terms and signed a joint venture agreement with the Ordzhonikidze Mechanical Engineering Co.

A joint payroll of 100 in the Federal Republic and 500 in the Soviet Union are to manufacture lathe centres and transfer lines, one third to be exported, two thirds for the Soviet market.

Less courageous colleagues call Lang, 47, an incorrigible optimist, but he feels the risk is no less calculable than for other contracts.

Details, he says, need to be clarified in practice, and not at the negotiating stage.

Salamander's Dazert agrees: "Problems will naturally arise, but we are not out to make maximum profits; we hope to improve economic ties on a long-term basis."

Salamander has held talks in the Soviet Union for years, first on licence agreements and now on joint ventures.

Otto Wolff von Amerongen, president of the Standing Conference of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHT) and of the German industrial committee on trade with the East, also stresses the long-term benefits.

Soviet orders are likely to decline initially. "That," the DIHT president says, "is only natural when such far-reaching changes are involved."

That brings us to a further risk joint ventures run. Herr Dazert may be con*vinced that joint ventures* will for the most part have a free hand where manpower is concerned, rationalisation could encounter stiff resistance in the corridors of Soviet power no matter how indispensable they might seem by Western standards.

Difficulties

Herr Dazert does not foresee redundancies, merely transfers from one department to another. But these transfers could well come up against resistance not even trade unions would offer in the Federal Republic.

Soviet trade unionists certainly don't yet seem to be entirely agreed with what Mr Gorbachov has described as a "transition from extensive to intensive growth."

At their last congress in Moscow they were not wholehearted in their approval of Mr Gorbachov's plans. Besides, Soviet practice still lags well behind the theory expounded by Party leaders.

Entire industries scheduled for restructuring along free-market lines have evidently yet to be given adequate preparation for the change.

The chairman of the textile workers' union told the congress that central *planning and procurement authorities* had failed to ensure that supplies were available in sufficient quantity.

In many works production had been brought to a standstill for lack of supplies. This is a problem generally associated with the shortcomings of centralised economic planning.

There can be no doubt that progress toward closer economic cooperation with the Soviet Union will be painful and protracted. Western executives keen to do business will need to be very strong on flair and intuition.

These are points on which Liebherr of Biberach or Hanomag of Hanover have no illusions. But they are sure the attempt will be worthwhile — on both economic and political grounds.

Klaus Dieter Oehler

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 16 May 1987)

German trade with East Bloc declines

Trade with the East Bloc was down last year for the first time in years. Provisional estimates show import-export trade to have declined to DM47.1bn from DM54.2bn in 1985.

Exports were down DM2bn to DM25.9bn and imports down DM5.2bn to DM21.2bn, a slump in trade with the Soviet Union being mainly to blame.

German imports from Russia plummeted from DM13.6bn to DM9.4bn, due for the most part to lower oil and *gas prices.*

With foreign exchange earnings down, Moscow placed fewer orders in the Federal Republic, so that German exports were down from DM10.5bn to DM9.4bn. A confidential Finance Ministry report to the Bundestag finance committee further reveals that export credit guaran*tees have declined markedly as well:* from DM158.3bn to DM147.2bn worldwide.

The East Bloc countries accounted for DM2.5bn of this decline, with the Soviet Union's share down DM1.4bn to DM14.4bn.

There is a general downturn in trade with petroleum-exporting countries. Libyan imports were halved last year to DM5.5bn — and Libya has long been hot on Saudi Arabia's heels as a leading German export client.

Bids to renegotiate sovereign debt arrangements with Poland for capital and interest due in 1986 failed "on account of heavy payment commitments and li*mited debt capacity."*

An agreement initialled in March 1986 was not signed.

(Die Welt, Bonn, 14 May 1987)

■ BUSINESS

Ashes to ashes: sales of cigars, cigarillos drop

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

Cigar and cigarillo sales in Germany were more than 900 million marks a year in the 1950s. A generation later, in 1985, sales had dropped to 600 million marks.

In 1986 the figure had dropped again, by 3.3 per cent to 580 million marks. In quantity terms the drop was from 1.637 billion single cigars to 1.527 billion.

When the Bundespost issued a stamp to commemorate the 90th birthday of Ludwig Erhard, father of West Germany's post-war economic miracle, characteristically smoking a Havana cigar, anti-smokers rose in uproar.

The Bundespost ignored the outcry, but that does not hide the fact that smoking is getting more and more unpopular. Increased awareness of health hazards are hitting the industry.

But it is not just the health question that is giving manufacturers concern. They have only themselves to blame for many of their troubles.

They have not done enough to dispel the grandfather image associated with cigar smoking.

When the industry united a few years ago for public relations and advertising purposes, the agency they used could not come up with anything better than a slogan proclaiming, "Peace and quiet with a good cigar."

It was quite unsuitable for the younger generation that lays great store on dynamism. Cinema advertising is expensive and did not get at its potential target group.

Since then individual industry members have gone it alone in promoting their products and they seem to have learned something at least from the past.

Cigar and cigarillo advertising is now directed more towards consumers and not as in the past almost entirely towards the trade.

The industry has another weakness; its confused production range. There are approximately 2,500 different makes of cigar and cigarillo, some produced in very small quantities.

This is not going to win consumer loyalty to one brand as is the case in the competing cigarette industry that has only 150 different makes.

However, something is also being done about this. The Dannemann cigar factory in Lübecke has reduced its range from 330 different types of cigar and cigarillo in 1982 to 105 now.

Dannemann is part of the Melitta Group and is the second largest manufacturer in the Federal Republic. The largest is the Arnold André-Zigarrenfabrik in neighbouring Bünde. East Westphalia remains a major centre of German cigar production.

The industry's history stretches back into the past century, when tobacco importers from Bremen looked for a suitable workers in the port's hinterland to roll cigars.

They found them among former linen weavers, who had shown that they had nimble fingers in the linen industry.

Even today East Westphalia producers employ people in the traditional way; they work at home, for instance in the skilled work of separating the tobacco leaf outers.

Villiger, R & C and Burger are also relatively large companies in the industry, followed by many small and some very small companies.

Some are so small that the firm owner "has to hammer the nails into the crates himself," to quote Dannemann managing director Hans-Günther Hildl. Dannemann is the only producer that gives precise turnover figures. Last year sales totalled DM58.3m, almost three per cent below the 1985 figure, an unavoidable result of reducing their range of cigars and cigarillos. But what was infinitely more important was that the company could come out in the black for the first time in a decade. A consistent marketing policy, concentrating on market requirements with high-value products, paid off.



Cigars are out, cigarillos slightly less out. (Photo: Poly-Press)

Changes have occurred in the cigar and cigarillo market. The most obvious feature is the trend to high-value products. In 1986 this policy brought about a reduction in turnover but it was not so great as the drop in sales volume.

There has been a move away from cigars to cigarillos. In 1985 cigars accounted for 25 per cent of the total market, but last year they dropped back to 25 per cent and in the first quarter of this year the cigar market fell again to 24 per cent of the total.

Over the same period there was an increase in cigarillo sales from 74 per cent to 76 per cent.

Tax-based definitions regard all tobacco products with a weight per article greater than three grams as "cigars," articles lighter in weight than three grams are cigarillos. The industry itself, however, does not take this narrow view.

There have been shifts of interest in various sections of the industry. We coronas, sold for 40, 50 or 60 pfennigs per cigar are making a loss, which is not surprising since they have not been significantly increased in price for decades so that quality has fallen by the wayside.

On the other hand high-priced cigars with natural outers have continued to do well.

The top makes of cigar at prices of two or three digits do not play a significant role in the business. Their only influence is as status symbols.

The trend to high-priced cigarillos is very noticeble. The market for 100 per cent tobacco cigarillos with natural outers, round and slim in shape, priced at 50 to 50 pfennigs each, is growing. Cheap single leaf cigarillos are losing out in the market.

The trends noted here will continue into the foreseeable future, including the negative aspects of the trade as a whole.

In the first two months of this year there was a drop in quantity terms of 6.2 per cent and in money terms of 5.3 per cent, but in March there was an increase in quantity and value terms of five per cent. It remains to be seen if that was a sign that the bottom of the recession had been passed.

The industry is putting its hopes on a new type of consumer, the young career woman. Her interest in cigarillos is on the increase.

If that becomes an accepted thing it will be good for the industry.

Heinz Hildebrandt

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 15 May 1987)

Men go for the casual look

The men's fashion business is on the move again after years of marking time. The business is freeing itself from "pin-stripe boredom," according to the trade's jargon. Men are becoming more casual.

Fashion retailers are doing well. Last year turnover increased six per cent, significantly higher than the three per cent for the rag trade's retail sector as a whole.

Last year total sales of male clothes was DM12.5bn. At the end of the 1970s it was only DM9bn.

The average German male pays out DM900 for new clothes every year, much more than ever before, says a trade survey.

Last year men went for knitware. This sector increased its turnover by 18 per cent. Suit sales dropped one per cent.

Men showed they had good and individual taste, according to a fashion show put on by the West German Men's Fashions Institute in Hamburg.

Heavy materials and uniform-like suits are out. For the office men are now wearing combinations with stylish assessories.

More and more suits or trousers and jacket made from light materials are being worn with stripped shirts.

Elegantly designed neckties are also in fashion. Men who want to be right up with the fashions wear a handkerchief in the breast pocket. Even cuff links and tie pins are back.

And what about colours? "Fashion objectivity" is called for in the autumn/winter season 1987/1988, according to the fashion-makers. Shades such as beige, brown and gray are favoured most. Loud, aggressive colours for suits are passé, but they are acceptable for accessories.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 15 May 1987)



■ INDUSTRY

Opel's long history goes back beyond the car to the sewing machine

The place of women in the development of the motorcar is assured. Berta Benz drove from Mannheim to Ludwigsburg in 1886 without her husband Carl, the car's inventor, knowing about it. Then came the Opel brothers: Carl, Wilhelm, Heinrich, Fritz and Ludwig. Before they went ahead with plans to produce cars in 1898, they first had to ask their mother, Sophie Opel. She had headed the firm since the death of her husband, Adam. She said yes.

Opel, now the German division of General Motors, has been in business in Rüsselsheim, Frankfurt, for 125 years.

But wasn't last year the centenary of the motor-car? Yes. But Adam Opel began in 1862 with fast needles, not fast wheels. First came sewing machines, later bicycles.

The first Opel car was made in 1899, four years after the firm's founder had died.

Adam Opel set up in business on his own at 25. A master-locksmith's son, he had previously toured Europe as a travelling journeyman, spending four years at the leading sewing machine factories in Paris.

Back home in Rüsselsheim he failed to persuade his father that the sewing machine was the shape of things to come. So he started his own firm in an empty cow-byre that belonged to a friendly uncle.



Needle in the industrial haystack ... Adam Opel (1837-1895) who founded Opel in 1862.

Opel had a buyer for his first machine, but when he crossed the Main by ferry to Flörsheim with his second he was stoned by a mob of journeyman tailors who, in Luddite fashion, were worried the sewing machine would put them out of work.

Business boomed. Later that year he took on his first employee and advertised his products in a local newspaper, the *Groß-Gerauer Kreisblatt*:

"Adam Opel, the Rüsselsheim mechanic, recommends his own make of sewing machines of all kinds, based on the latest designs and sold at fixed, inexpensive prices."

In 1868 he opened his first factory near Rüsselsheim railway station.

In 1886, when Carl Benz inaugurated the automobile era with his patented motor-car in Mannheim, Opel had a payroll of 300.

The Rüsselsheim works manufactured 18,000 sewing machines a year. Output totalled one million by 1911, when sewing machine manufacture was discontinued after fire gutted the works.

A century ago a new sport, cycling, delighted young people, including Adam Opel's five sons. He saw his first velocipede in Paris and imported parts from England to make a penny-farthing.

His first attempt to ride it was a failure. He never again set foot on a boneshaker.

Cycle manufacture proved profitable. In 1887 a choice of Opel bicycles and tricycles was available.

By the mid-1920s Opel were the largest cycle manufacturers in the world, making 4,000 a day on the most up-to-date production lines.

In the 1930s, when Opel ran short of space at the Rüsselsheim works, the cycle division was sold to NSU in Neckarsulm. Opel had made 2.5m bikes.

Fifty years ago Opel was the largest carmaker in Europe. This third part of the firm's history began just before the turn of the century with the Opel patent motor-car of 1899.

It was sold as the Lutzmann Opel, named after its designer, Friedrich Lutzmann, master-locksmith to the Grand-Duke of Sachsen-Anhalt. Its five-hp engine reached 20kph, or a brisk 12mph! The first Opel Opel was presented in 1902. It had a 12-hp two-cylinder engine, reached 45kph (28mph) and cost 6,000 marks.

Production reached four figures — over 1,000 a year! — in 1910.

In 1909 Opel launched a neat open two-seater that came to be known as the doctor's car. It was a sturdy, inexpensive, four-cylinder model popular with country doctors.

Mass production began in 1924 with a model nicknamed the Frog because it was available in any colour the customer wanted, to misquote Henry Ford, as long as it was green.

It first sold for 4,000 marks, but within two years the price was cut to 2,950 marks. Opel also did well with larger, more powerful models. The first eight-cylinder Opel was unveiled in 1928.

The family firm was badly hit by the Depression, having failed in particular to set up an efficient exports division. Opel was taken over by General Motors.

The Americans paid $33m for 80 per cent of the share capital in 1929 and bought the remainder from the family two years later.

The 1930s were a period of fast and furious growth. By 1936 Opel was the largest carmaker in Europe, making 120,000 cars and commercial vehicles a year.

That year the first Opel Kadett, a particularly inexpensive model with a self-supporting body, was unveiled.

In 1940 the one millionth Opel rolled off the assembly lines, which were soon afterward converted for war use.

Mannheimer MORGEN

The first post-war Opel was made in 1947. Opel's contributions to the German "economic miracle" included the Rekord and the Kapitän.

By 1954 the two millionth Opel was made, and the trend was upward. In 1962 the Kadett reappeared and a new DM1bn works was built in Bochum.

It was built at record speed. A mere 25 months elapsed between the announcement of construction plans and the first Opel running off the Bochum assembly line.

In 1966 a new works was built at Kaiserslautern for DM120m. It made chassis, steering units, gearboxes, axles and plastic components.

Opel now stands for models such as the Kapitän, the Rekord and the Omega. Well over 20 million Opels have been manufactured.

Within General Motors Opel is in charge of new model design and construction throughout Europe. The new compact, the Corsa, was designed in Rüsselsheim and has, since 1982, been manufactured in Saragossa, Spain.

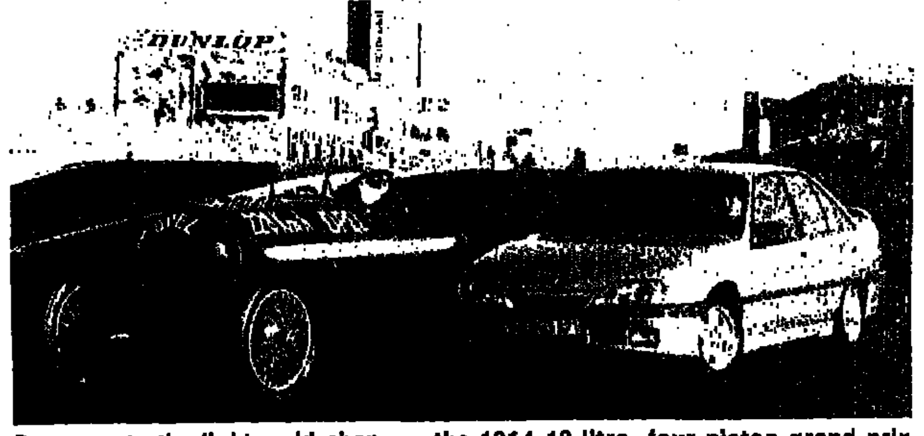
Opel in Germany, the Spanish division and Vauxhall in England made 1.3 million cars and other motor vehicles last year.

Opel's share of the German market declined to 14.8 per cent, but billions have been invested in new models and production facilities in recent years.

The firm's German payroll numbers over 56,000. They were paid a DM1,200 jubilee bonus. After years of heavy losses profits look to be a distinct possibility in this, the firm's 125th anniversary year.

Dieter Keller

(Mannheimer Morgen, 16 May 1987)



Race you to the lights, old chap ... the 1914 12-litre, four-piston grand prix Opel with the 1986, three-litre, six-cylinder Opel Omega 3000. (Photos: Opel)

■ FILMS

Optimism takes a back seat as festival turns towards the darker side

Mannheimer MORGEN

The Oberhausen Short-film Festival, presented annually for the past 33 years, has constantly reflected the spirit of the times, the *Zeitgeist*.

Judging by the films selected for this year's event there has been a retreat inwards. There is resignation instead of optimism and a belief in progress.

Many of the film images were fugitive, superfluous, quickly forgotten. They accent in the main the darker side of human existence.

Bulgarian Nikolai Volev's *Haus Nr. 8* is set in a home for mentally-handicapped children and adolescents. A teacher, who is always bawling at his charges, drills the children for a sporting event for International Children's Day.

An LP churns out a song with the lines "happy enjoyment of life in our glorious country." This is a macabre comment to make on the loveless surroundings in which these helpless young people find themselves.

The transfer of an 18-year-old to a home for mentally-ill adults is like a vision of hell painted by Hieronymus Bosch.

What the film displays can certainly not only be seen in Bulgaria, but there are not many in communist Bulgaria who have had the courage to show it.

Director Volev collected most prizes, including one of the six main prizes offered by the jury from the Arts Ministry in North Rhine-Westphalia and the Evangelical Church. The film critics association jury awarded its prize to *Haus No. 8* and the Polish film *Eins minus eins* by Natalia Korynecka, who was also awarded a main prize and an honourable mention. This film, without dialogue, deals with a young married couple. When the man comes back from the night-shift in a steel mill his wife has to go off to work in a textiles factory. They only meet each other in the bathroom in the morning and in the kitchen in the evening.

Waiting for The Unhappy Ending in Tina di Feliciantonio's *Life with AIDS*. (Photo: Manfred Salzgeber)

This is a moving insight into alienation in modern industrial society.

Two other films from the six Polish productions shown in Oberhausen were given prizes. The most impressive productions shown at the Festival came in the main from East Europe.

The Russians sent nine films to Oberhausen and the international jury gave a lot of attention to all of them, for they represented not only quantity but also quality.

One of the films from these, *Die Reise nach Zopot*, won additional honours. This first film was made as long ago as 1980 by the Georgian director Nana Dzhordzhadze.

On two previous occasions she had been invited to bring her film to Oberhausen, but in the past the Soviet authorities did not think the subject of the film was suitable for projecting an image of the realities of Soviet life.

It deals with two vagabonds who make a living selling pornographic postcards in railway trains. There were six contributions from the USA. One dealing with a very contemporary problem, *Life with AIDS*, by Tina Di Feliciantonio which won a major prize.

The film deals with the last days of a 22-year-old AIDS victim. He has a companion who stands by him to the end, a member of the group set up in San Francisco to help AIDS sufferers.

There was little of politics at this year's festival. Only once was there any trace of the kind of political atmosphere of previous years, when the auditorium of the Stadthalle was filled by people, mainly women, associated with the peace movement.

They had come to see the première of Re Karen's film *Fasia ... von mutigen Frauen und einer Troubadora*.

Fasia Jansen, who played the title role, was present in Oberhausen and was in the end given a very warm welcome. She has a powerful blues voice and is inexhaustibly on the go.

She has sung on Easter marches and at the gates of military missile bases.

With wit and visual conviction the film conveys an idea of her *life and* personality.

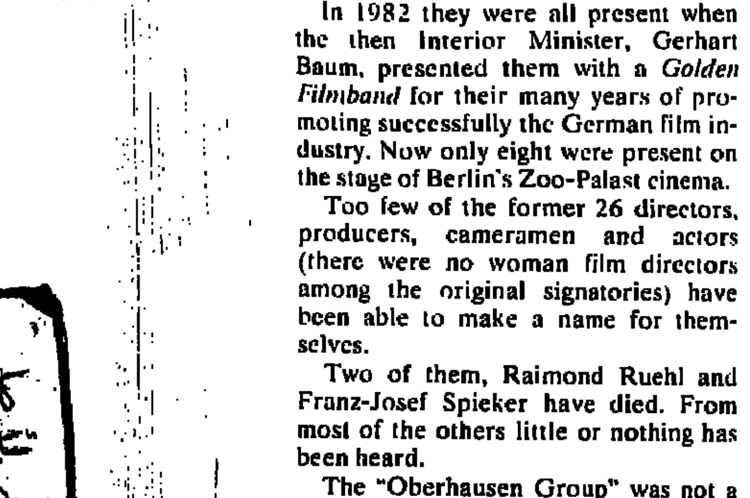
In past years the festival has been given a political accent by the participation of the East Germans. Among the East German guests this year was Horst Pehnert, deputy Arts Minister in East Berlin, responsible for films and the cinema.

The East Germans won three awards in the special programme of films for children.

The West German Short-film Festival has for ages been put on under the motto "The way to our neighbours" and that is true as regards our East German neighbours.

Heinz Kersten

(Mannheimer Morgen, 13 May 1987)



Then there were nine . . . where have the reformers gone?

Twenty-five years ago a group of film-makers signed the "Oberhausen Manifesto," which declared that the conventional film was dead.

The economic earth had been cut under its feet. The Manifesto rejected what was regarded as "the attitude of mind" of the old film. But in its passing "the new film has a chance of coming to life."

There were 26 who put their names to changing the German film. They swore to change the cinematic landscape, "to create a new German film." What have they achieved?

In 1982 they were all present when the then Interior Minister, Gerhart Baum, presented them with a *Golden Filmband* for their many years of promoting successfully the German film industry. Now only eight were present on the stage of Berlin's Zoo-Palast cinema.

Too few of the former 26 directors, producers, cameramen and actors (there were no woman film directors among the original signatories) have been able to make a name for themselves.

Two of them, Raimond Ruehl and Franz-Josef Spieker have died. From most of the others little or nothing has been heard.

The "Oberhausen Group" was not a well-defined group. If you met one of them at the Oberhausen Short-film Festival (that takes place in February) he would probably be excited about the restlessness of the times and would agree that an annoucement should be made to the public.

The Manifesto was an expression of the times, a sign of the changes that were in the offing in the West German film scene. These changes were brought about not so much by the Manifesto but by the influence of the film situation generally.

The old generation of scriptwriters and directors had outlived their usefulness in the industry. This was shown by their choice of themes and the film forms they used. They retired.

It had not always been possible to overcome the vacuum, that originated from dictatorship, persecution and war. The younger generation stepped in, impatient with the old routine, tired of hypocritical films that gave no idea of the times in which they lived.

They wanted a new freedom, freedom from the traditional ways in which the industry was run, freedom from commercial influences, freedom from having to be subordinate to interest groups. It sound as if it promised much.

This was long before signs were made that a change in the political power structure in this country was about to take place.

The film has in the past proved to be a sensitive seismograph of changes in state structure well before these changes came about. This could be observed well enough in the New Wave in France, the Thaw in Poland and the Prague Spring in Czechoslovakia.

It was some time after 1962 before the young film-makers could introduce their first work, debute works from Kluge and Reitz, Senft and Kristl, Herzog and Schlöndorff, Peter and Ulrich Schamoni (not all of them were part of the original Oberhausen group).

It was not to long, however, before the first of them was completely forgotten.

Twenty-five years later it is hard to place a common idea to the individual names of those who originally signed the Oberhausen Manifesto.

Nothing has been heard of many after they signed the Manifesto. Others deserted the path they proclaimed as soon as the path was made know, be it because they could not produce anything, be it because of the longing to make a lot of money.

There are in fact only a few names that have survived the quarter century since the Manifesto appeared. The most important is, certainly, Alexander Kluge who has found his way from his early critical short and feature length films to the satirical, airy-fairy collages of today.

Edgar Reitz must also be mentioned; Haro Senft as well, who has given most of his attention to children's films.

Hans Rolf Strobel and Heinz Tichawsky have in the meantime given more and more of their time to making television documentaries.

Wolfgang Urchs has unfortunately ceased making films. Herbert Vesely has gone in more and more for extravagant spectacular productions.

Hans-Jürgen Pohland, who has had his eye on porno films, is completely out of film-making. Finally Peter Schamoni has returned to the position from which the signatories of the Oberhausen Manifesto came, the production of conventional films, highlighting the lives of greatmen.

Obviously not all of those who signed the Manifesto had the same firm, intellectual and aesthetic ideas.

Many wanted to be fellow travellers, others made adjustments and have used to the full the ideas they had.

Some of their later colleagues have

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

gone off in every direction, keeping up with the mood of the times.

The drive of the 1960s lost its impetus. Some went abroad, probably because they felt there was no chance of doing what that wanted to do at home. Others gave more and more of their time to television and made compromises in so doing.

Many of the younger generation of film-makers did not look for any kind of confrontation with the problems of the times, but became non-commital, and were successful in this way.

It would be unfair to criticise all that has been done in the past quarter century when these film people decided to renew the German film.

They presumed that the "old film" was dead, and they put their faith in the new, as they confidently proclaimed in 1962. Many of them have taken up new

Continued on page 11

■ EXHIBITIONS

Silent witnesses to a page from the Jewish past

A collector rummaging through city markets and junk shops might find items from middle-class Berlin living-rooms of the 1900s or from Kreuzberg Turkish homes of the 1980s. But nothing will be found about one important group of Berliners: Jews.

There used to be many Jewish organisations in the city; many Jewish societies, schools, synagogues and restaurants.

There were thousands of small Jewish businesses. The German Jewish Community in Berlin was the largest in the country and the fifth largest in the world. There was a lot going on at all levels of life.

The outward forms of this varied life have been very comprehensively documented. There must have been much dealing with private life: diaries, private photos, souvenirs, postcards and much more. But nothing is to be found.

One keen collector, who for years has thinned out photo albums for photographs of the city, said that he had found nothing that could have originated from a Jewish family. His collection includes about a thousand albums of this sort.

Should it not be possible to find items that come from German Jewish homes and kitchens? Rag markets and junk shops have been the depositaries of what generation after generation either throws away or leaves behind.

All that is left of the households of what was at the time a community of 160,000 remains locked up in cupboards that are rarely opened, in museums, exhibitions or archives, in establishments that are reserved for items of historical value.

The idea behind the planned Kreuzberg Museum for City Development and Social History is that it should collect objects that throw light on typical, daily life. But this goes in the teeth of reality.

The most private objects from Jewish Berlin life have become precious. The most ordinary items, such as postcards, that could be bought for a few pennies at junk shops and rag markets, can now only be seen, if at all, in museums' glass cases. Because they are so rare they have become expensive.

It is hard to find the dividing line between the Jewish and the non-Jewish. Without some knowledge of the range of Jewish life and the forms of Jewish assimilation it is hard to say what objects come from the homes of Berlin Jews.

That which was regarded as typically Jewish seems to be only common among the capital's Eastern Jews who were not particularly welcome.

Up until the end of June the Berlin Museum is putting on what is a mild sensation, a special exhibition in the Jewish department entitled "Jewish Postcards — pictures, ideas and memories of a time past."

They are postcards of copies of art pictures and paintings, the originals of which are mainly lost.

It includes particularly the classical motives of Jewish genre painting, which concentrates on everyday religious customs.

The cards are part of the "Gerhardt Collection" that includes more than 400 picture postcards.

They were produced in Eastern Europe, where religious customs and traditions lasted the longest. Gerhardt brought them from there to Europe.

He was not Jewish but a Protestant professor of zoology. If he were a Jewish professor we would not be so astonished by them.

The Jews have disappeared from Berlin. If you looked in the telephone book for Jewish surnames you would find few. The disappearance of the people was accompanied by a ghostly disappearance of objects from their daily lives.

It is just as hard to comprehend this total disappearance of objects from Jewish life, even to picture postcards in junk shops, as it is to understand the total destruction of European Jewry all over, or to comprehand the highly organised murder of millions of Jews.

It indicates how efficient the Nazi extermination machine was, how totally the Jews were plundered and how obsessed the Nazis were with obliterating the memory of the Jews.

German Jewry was gradually robbed of everything it had.

An atonement sum of one and a quarter billion marks was levied on German Jewry for the murder of German diplomats in Paris. Then came an edict confiscating all Jews' valuables such as precious metals and stones, pearls, works of art, radios, electrical appliances, typewriters, bicycles and other consumer durables. Houses of Jews who had gone were seized, sealed off and looted.

The property of the Jewish Community and its institutions was illegally sequestered. Archives, libraries and works of art were confiscated, 338,000 books from twelve Jewish libraries alone.

Non-Jewish libraries had to hand over what they had dealing with Judaism, Hebraicism and documents dealing with Jews.

Many of the documents were not destroyed but carefully stored away.

The Nazis established a "Museum for Anti-Semitism," founded an "Anti-Semitic Research Institution" in Frankfurt and an "Institute for Research into the Jewish Question" in Munich. They systematised research into Jews and they did their duty well.

A conference in London in 1943 about the views of the Nazi regime on Jewish cultural assets was unable to say much about the work of these organisations. All the conference could comment was that the Nazis "were currently some of the few who were concerned with Jewish research . . ."

Dinner on the Sabbath, from 'Jewish postcards — pictures, ideas and memories of a time past'. (Photo: Peter Maser, *Jüdischer Alltag, Jüdische Feste*, Harenberg Verlag)

Whether the SS high command had already set out on "the Final Solution" when they began their "research" or not, they saw in this "academic approach" a justification for their anti-semitism.

The careful way the Nazis handled Jewish cultural possessions for their own purposes is why so much has been preserved. The Nazis made micro-films of "the total archives of the Jews in Germany" so paving the way for their survival.

Traces of this use of violence can be seen once more in the items of daily life and Jewish culture of those Jews who lived in Berlin up to 1945 that have again turned up.

The way these items returned is not always the same path taken by people, but just as bizarre.

Traces of their past cannot be found. Many of these items were removed and

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taken by their owners with them as they got out and sought sanctuary, perhaps in the USA or Israel.

So they took what they could and left behind family photographs, and from these photographs, which is all that many synagogues have, the tales can be seen.

Every item has a tale behind it. There are tales of expulsion, flight, persecution and then in some cases tales of the return.

A new style had to be developed for the exhibition of Jewish exhibits. It was a question of dealing with trivial items, similar to the idea of the "Musée Sentimental" (de Prusse," that deals with items of daily life that have become sacred as it were, sacred because of the greatness of their owners — the shirt in which Frederick the Great died or Rimbaud's suitcase.

What is so striking about the exhibition of Jewish postcards is the levelling effect it has on the sublime and the lowly, on cultural possessions and items of everyday life. It is the fate of a whole people that nothing of human greatness has been left to us.

The fate of a people an individuals suffered a "levelling death," the one as a result of natural processes, the other as a result of violent death at the hands of other human beings.

It is impossible to apply traditional cultural criticism to these objects, witnesses of Jewish life and death, when consideration is given to the conditions under which they were preserved.

Dividing these items into "types" such as historical sources, or of cultural and artistic value diminish in importance when it is considered they all have one thing in common, they survived the holocaust.

This puts the value of a birthday card to an aunt on the same level as an artistic hannukah or a painting by Max Liebermann. A postcard in this instance is not just a postcard.

It is something rescued just as the survivors were rescued.

The exhibition is unique not only in the insignificance of these vestiges of Jewish life but in the special way items were selected. The selection itself has become unique.

Is it usual for the owner of a special postcard to prefer taking it with him or her when the owner has to flee?

The citizens of Pompeii were found in crouched positions, as if they were sleeping, but the Jews under threat were concerned with their collection of postcards.

The citizens of Pompeii did not just go on with daily life as the lava advanced towards them. They did not sleep when the flood from Mount Vesuvius engulfed them, but tried to save and protect themselves.

We know too little directly about ordinary Jewish life in Berlin, in Germany, before 1933. It is impossible to find out much from those who survived or discover much from the rare objects available today of daily life then.

The tracks of the living can only be traced via the murdered. They are only available by unheard of efforts and the use of fantasy.

From this exhibition one acquires a little knowledge of the small things of German-Jewish or Jewish-German (which ever you prefer) daily life through the curiosity of the "Second Generation," the children and children's children of the persecuted Jews. One acquires some inkling of the miracle and oddness of hiding-places, of being forgotten and re-surfacing. These items tell a tale of being saved, that gives them a certain aura all their own.

The lava that flowed over Pompeii and soldified preserved items of daily life in the Roman Empire for posterity. The holocaust reduced the Jewish world, Jewish daily life to dust and ashes. Nothing graphic was left behind.

A postcard in the glass case in this exhibition speaks "in silent words" of the Jewish world that perished.

Sylvia Zacharias

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 7 May 1987)

Continued from page 10

positions in the film industry. Much has been done that in the course of time has been significant, but a lot that is best forgotten.

The Oberhausen Manifesto was not a solution of all things. It was just one sign of the times, underlining that there had been a generation change in the industry together with a change of the language and aesthetics applied in film-making.

But every new tide ebbs and flows again, as Jerzy Bossack once said (if I recall correctly in Oberhausen).

The question now is: where is the manifesto for the 1980s?

Volker Baer

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 10 May 1987)

■ COMPUTERS

Firms call for practical instruction to be part of general education

Computer freaks are not in demand for commerce. The need instead is for young people entering business careers to have a solid grounding in computers so that they can use them properly.

This is one of the conclusions of a survey of 161 firms which handle data with computers. The poll was conducted by the Institute for the German Economy (IW). The sampling was random, but the institute nevertheless considers that the opinions thrown up are representative.

All respondents recognised the importance of computer-science training, especially in vocational schools. But there was also a wide body of opinion that training should be widened to non-vocational schools: that all schools with the exception of primary schools and special schools for slow-learners should

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also have computer-science classes. The respondents thought that computer-science should be part of a general education.

Reinhold Weiss, who assessed the survey, estimates that only between 5 and 10 per cent of school pupils have had anything at all to do with a computer by the time they finish school. This showed the need for schools to play a bigger role.

Poll respondents said the first role of the computer in schools should be as a teaching medium with the accent on the practical. Pupils should use the computer to solve a variety of problems in practical ways.

Only a few respondents wanted teaching to involve algorithmic applications and the primary examination of appropriate principles to solve problems. The general view was that the theoretical approach was suitable only for senior *Gymnasium* pupils.

Computers could be used in diverse fields: these should include for example mathematics, chemistry, physics and economics. Independent computer-science departments should only be established at senior *Gymnasium* levels.

Poll respondents thought that the curriculum should get to grips with items such as familiarity with the keyboard, working with tailor-made programmes and in typical situations such as commercial transactions.

These courses should not include designing programmes for specific tasks or computer languages. These should be studied later in specialised courses.

Respondents put the major emphasis on achieving familiarity with the computer. Then efforts should be made to come to terms with economic, cultural, social and ethical aspects.

The general feeling of respondents was that computers are a positive rather than negative influence in classrooms. On this point, expectations were high that it would help pupils to develop powers of logical thinking. Other positive aspects quoted were the development of creativity and independence and the capacity to learn to be successful.

Few of the respondents were of the opinion that computers were a force likely to render redundant the need for mental calculating or writing correctly.

(Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf, 8 May 1987)

Braille editing system to help the blind

There are hopes that a piece of equipment called the Braille Build Editor will open new avenues of study and careers for blind people.

The apparatus, developed at the computer-science department of Karlsruhe University, has already been put through its paces in schools and firms.

Beginning from this winter semester blind students will use it. At first studies will be limited to computer science and certain engineering disciplines. This is expected eventually to be broadened.

Both blind and sighted people can communicate through the editor, which is an adapted personal computer in which text and graphics are electronically stored. The teacher can enter text using a normal keyboard and read it in the normal way on a screen.

The blind person is able to enter and change text by using a braille keyboard and read both text and graphic work by hand on a vibrating tactile screen which is felt with the hand.

Part of the system can be dismantled and transported — taken to lectures for example, where the blind student can record what he or she wants on a floppy disc. Eventually the system should be applicable to many fields of study for the blind and partly blind.

Over the next five years, up to ... blind students a year are expected to use the existing hard- and software and in doing so, also help improve them.

One aim is to later combine the system's tactile capabilities with acoustic features and thus increase the sophistication. Results of the experiment will be collated and housed in a library.

Brita Hilsdorf

(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 8 May 1987)

Big industrial research centre planned

Plans have been revealed for a new science park and research area in the Danube city of Ulm, in Baden-Württemberg.

Six big companies have come to agreement with the *Land* government of Premier Lothar Späth. Land is being given by the state, industry is paying for 60 per cent of the costs and the *Land* government the rest.

It is hoped that 70 per cent of the running costs will be covered by research contracts from industry. It is anticipated that by 1989 there will be 40 researchers on the payroll.

The firms involved are Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Mannesmann-Kienzle, Nixdorf Computer, Siemens and Daimler-Benz.

Daimler-Benz is to set up a large research centre initially on 40 hectares of land acquired from the state. There is to be a science park specially geared to the needs of smaller and middle-sized firms where they will be able to work closely with researchers. Work groups are being established in order to work out the details.

A faculty of engineering science is planned and there are to be special areas of resaerch into high-frequency technologies, medical technology, energy technology and computer sciences. There is to be work on artificial intelligence where it is hoped to form a basis for the next generation of computers plus software.

Here, developments in computers and human speech functions are to be give some priority.

Ulm has been developing a reputation as a science centre and many firms both large and small try to place at least part of there operations there. Ulm has a weak infrastructure, but it is hoped that the new project will help the entire region of East Württemberg and Upper Swabia.

Heinz L. Steuber

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 9 May 1987)

Students show they have taken the byte between their teeth

What does "floppy" mean? asked one of the questions put the Institute for the German Economy (IW) in a questionnaire to 8644 people between the ages of 10 and 24.

"Floppy?" That had something to do with "flop". Being a flop. Hence, floppy was a reference to a bad programmer. This, in any case, is how 3.1 per cent of the respondents saw it.

Another 22.6 per cent saw it as something to do with a digital control system switch (on and off with a flip-flop action).

But most got it right: 74.3 per cent knew that floppy is the jargon term referring to the magnetic disc used in data processing.

The other questions also showed that most of the respondents had at least a basic knowledge of data processing. There were, however, some differences between the sexes: men and boys knew much more, said Rüdiger Falk of the institute.

A lot also depended on what sort of school the respondent had attended or was attending. Vocational school pupils had the best data-processing knowledge. Senior specialist-school pupils came next followed by *Gesamtschule* (secondary modern) pupils and *Hauptschule* (intermediate) pupils. He was somewhat surprised that *Gymnasium* (academic secondary school) pupils had the least knowledge.

In all groups, there were clearly more who had an interest in the subject than those who had actually worked with a computer.

In the *Hauptschule* group, 97 per cent wanted to increase their knowledge compared with 44.1 per cent who had actually had word-processing experience.

The younger the respondent, the greater the wish for an own computer: 60.3 per cent of those up to 14 years down to 14.3 per cent for those over 20.

Attitudes towards home computers also depended to a great deal on what sort of school the respondent went/had been) to. More pupils from *Hauptschule*, *Realschule* and *Gesamtschule* than pupils from vocational schools and specialist schools wanted one.

The survey revealed a great demand for computer lessons: 88 per cent wanted a better knowledge.

But most of the respondents saw the computer first as a destroyer of jobs rather than a creator: 37.6 per cent believe that jobs are being destroyed. Only a tenth (11.5 per cent) have the opposite opinion.

Falk: "They are clearly having great difficulty in reconciling the extremely complex factors involved in the creation of jobs through the new technology as the parallel destruction of jobs."

However, he said that there was a positive groundswell of opinion about the possibilities of data processing.

However, those over 18 of both sexes were much more skeptical about computers as those under 18.

Almost every third boy had positive expectations about what it all was mean for quality of life, only one eighth of the girls concurred.

Christian Geyer

(Die Welt, Bonn, 14 May 1987)

Continued from page 13

gen carriers in concentrated form. If the patient has donated blood at fortnightly intervals beforehand, blood deep-frozen and saved for the operation, he can be given a combination of lost blood and plasma that is, to all intents and purposes, fresh blood — and his own.

At Tübingen University Hospital 1,200 autotransfusions have been carried out since 1983. In 400 cases blood lost during surgery has been combined with the patient's own plasma.

Autotransfusion, the Tübingen specialists say, is almost always possible — except in operations in infectious areas and on malignant tumours.

Professor Schorer is convinced the technique will soon, after a trial period, become standard practice at all clinics and main hospitals. He says the cost should be slightly lower than that of conventional blood transfusions, but wider use of the new technique is hampered by a shortage of staff and refrigerated storage facilities.

The Tübingen anaesthetists hope their initial successes will qualify them at least for *Land* grants to continue with their research work. Anaesthetist Meno von Finck says reuse of the patient's own blood during surgery is a longstanding technique.

But unless the blood is cleansed to concentrate the red corpuscles it can be fatal because blood tends to coagulate the moment it comes into contact with air.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 14 May 1987)



■ FRONTIERS

Caruso the first to sense potential of immortality in new-fangled music disc

One hundred years ago, on 16 May 1887, Emil Berliner, a German-American from Hanover, publicly demonstrated the first gramophone record.

It revolutionised the world of music. Ninety-nine years later, in 1986, more than 1.4 billion records were sold worldwide, 100 million of them in the Federal Republic.

The American inventor Thomas Alva Edison discovered sound recording in 1877 with his phonograph. It was the first machine to record and reproduce sound and the tone was, of course, not good.

Edison rented out his invention for 10 dollars a time to showmen. People were fascinated. A machine that could reproduce speech and music!

Bremer Nachrichten

The first music recording was a cornet solo of "Yankee Doodle" made by Jules Levy in New York.

Singers of classical music, however, declined to have their voices recorded. They regarded the new-fangled machine as not quite befitting their status, not least because well-known popular singers had had their voices recorded.

Then world-famous Italian tenor Enrico Caruso saw the possibilities of bringing music to many more people than could be reached via the opera house and concert hall.

A singer would also achieve a kind of immortality by being recorded. Emil Berliner improved Edison's machine considerably.

Instead of a roll he used a flat record made of shellac to carry the sound. The first to use Berliner's invention was Deutsche Grammophon-Gesellschaft in Hanover.

The first two-sided records came out on the market in 1904. A London record firm marketed the first long-playing records between 1906 and 1908, mainly light music and operetta.

These records had a diameter of 50 centimetres and played for up to 12 minutes — a considerable advance over the two minutes that Edison's rolls played for.

The next long-playing records had a diameter of from 25 to 30 centimetres and played for 20 minutes. They weighed between 500 and 750 grams and were six millimetres thick.

Soon after the development of radio the record industry, in 1925, went in for recording and reproducing electrically.

Instead of having to sing into a giant horn artists used a microphone.

A new generation of record-players were also produced. The sound was no longer reproduced by a membrane through a horn but electronically with a needle.

This unleashed a boom in the record industry, because music and words were almost true to the original.

Plastics replaced shellac after the war. Poly-vinyl was cheaper, almost unbreakable and the grooves could be made smaller.

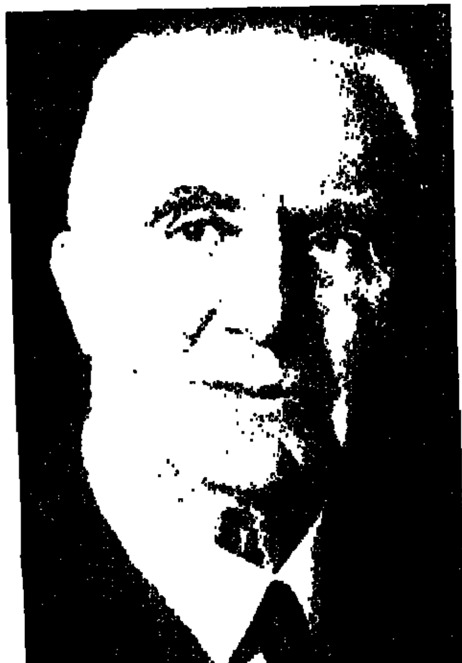
In 1948 long-playing records appeared on the market. The first LPs from the American recording company Columbia had a playing time of 23 minutes each side. These first LPs were *recordings of Mendelssohn's* violin concerto, Tchaikovsky's 4th Symphony and the Broadway musical *South Pacific*.

Ten years later the first stero records appeared in the record business.

Then came quadrophonic sound using four loud speakers, until compact discs (CDs) hit the market in 1980.

The indentation on the CD is very slight. An arm no longer passes over the record to produce the sound, but a laser beam.

CDs are only 11.5 centimetres in diameter and have a playing time of an hour.



Started off a long player ... Emil Berliner. (Photo: dpa)

Because the surface of the record remains untouched the records do not wear out.

The first Golden Disc was awarded to Glen Miller in 1942 for his *Chattenooga Choo Choo* from the American film *Sun Valley Serenade*.

Within a few months of it appearing the record sold more than a million copies.

In honour of the event recording company RCA had a gilt copy of the record produced.

dpa

(Bremer Nachrichten, 13 May 1987)

A puff of smoke — the fag-end of history

Tobacco is a plant of the genus nicotiana of which there are over 50 varieties. Jean Nicot, Sieur de Villemain, was sent to Lisbon as French ambassador in 1560.

On his return from Portugal, he introduced the tobacco plant into France — hence the name, nicotine.

An exhibition detailing the history of the now out-of-fashion weed has been arranged at the Hagen-Selbecke open-air museum in Westphalia.

It comprises pictures, documents and other items. Visitors learn that no less a person than Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of America, opened the doors to the pleasures of tobacco smoking, when he brought the leaf back to Europe.

Romano Pane, a friar who accompanied Columbus on his second voyage, mentioned tobacco as being used medicinally and in religious ceremonies by tribes in the Antilles.

The natives inhaled the smoke from a burning leaf through a forked cane held to the nostrils.

The cane was called tobacco by the natives and this name was applied by the Spaniards to the primitive cigar and the plant itself.

The new pleasure quickly spread all over Europe, particularly among courtiers. The exhibition illustrates that it must have been expensive to indulge in the new fad. It includes costly snuff boxes and valuable meerschaum and porcelain pipes.

The smoking habit had some curious effects, as the exhibition displays, on the pipes used, some decorated with scrolls and paintings on the bowl of the pipes that reservists used, carved cigar-holders and some decorated with portraits of Bismarck even.

To give visitors a total view of the tobacco industry its darker side is also illustrated in the exhibition, particularly its history of exploitation of the poor.

The organisers have obtained the daily tools used by a tobacco worker. Whole families had to work at the rolling tables for a pittance.

Michael Vaupel

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, Essen, 15 May 1987)

Gongs for all occasions, even if some have a hollow ring

More than 150,000 people every year in West Germany are given an official honour of one kind or another — a medal or an order.

Recipients range from members of voluntary fire brigades, life-saving societies, charitable organisations to commercial companies.

About 6,000 are awarded the Order of the Federal Republic every year.

Look, son. I'm a hero. (Photo: dpa)

Jörg Nimmergut, director of West Germany's only museum for orders and medals, which has been opened in Lüdenscheid, said: "Even if they don't admit it almost everyone would like to have an honour of one kind or another." The museum's collection of 1,000 orders and medals documents human vanity, although not all the glittering and shining awards on show are genuine. Valuable stones were regularly prized out of orders by recipients and replaced by reproductions, according to Nimmergut, who can take pride, however, in having only the real thing in his museum. The museum has, for instance, the extensive collection of orders made by General Hugo von Winterfeldt at the turn of the century, glittering and colourful and with stones that are usually real. The collection includes 12 grand crosses, 18 insignia of commanders of knightly orders (worn round the neck) and an incredible number of knights' crosses.

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Hussars lieutenant Alfred Dietz, from Hanover, ended his life as an insurance salesman.

Unlike his senior officer comrade-in-arms in the First World War, the general, he bought his row of medals from a mail-order house.

But the lieutenant was not too concerned about the truth. On the same day he ordered for himself the military medals for the battles of Verdun, Champagne and Argonne.

The oldest item in the Lüdenscheid Museum, and the rarest, is not particularly prepossessing. It is the Order of German Honesty dating from 1689. It is just a coloured piece of metal, but, according to Nimmergut, it is unique.

The most valuable item in the collection is the cordon of the Order of the House of Brunswick that changed hands a few years ago for DM125,000.

Nimmergut can recommend a cheap award for collector beginners. A cross from the First World War can be had for eight marks, a medal that was pinned to the breast of about eight million soldiers.

dpa

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 15 May 1987)